

## Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-02 NSC-07

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14 SAM-01 AID-05 DRC-01

EURE-00 /063 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6448

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

EUCOM IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 8083

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: KORUTURK REDESIGNATES ECEVIT TO FORM GOVERNMENT

1. TURKISH PRESIDENT KORUTURK IN SPEECH OCTOBER 10  
1900 LOCAL REVIEWED POLITICAL EVENTS OF PAST YEAR, REPORTING ON HIS  
OWN EFFORTS OF LAST TWO WEEKS AND, IN CONCLUSION, ASKED  
REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY LEADER BULENT ECEVIT TO ATTEMPT TO FORM  
A NEW GOVERNMENT. SHORTLY THEREAFTER ECEVIT SAID HE HAD ACCEPTED  
THIS OFFER.

2. KORUTURK'S SPEECH BEGAN WITH CAREFUL REVIEW OF EVENT  
FOLLOWING INDECISIVE 1973 NATIONAL ELECTION. HE NOTED THAT  
SINCE RESIGNATION OF FIRST ECEVIT CABINET SEPT 18, HE (KORUTURK) HAD  
MADE A NUMBER OF EFFORTS TO FORM A NEW GOVERNMENT BASED ON ONE OF THE  
MAJOR PARTIES. AS A RESULT OF HIS FAILURE IN THAT CONNECTION, SAID  
THE PRESIDENT, HE HAD THOUGHT THE BEST SOLUTION FOR THE COUNTRY  
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WOULD BE THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT. HE LISTED

A NUMBER OF REASONS FOR THIS DECISION, MOST IMPORTANT  
OF WHICH FOLLOW:

(A) CYPRUS SITUATION: IN DISCUSSING THIS SUBJECT BY FAR MOST  
IMPORTANT POINT MADE WAS INTRODUCTION OF CUT-OFF OF AMERICAN AID.  
AID. PRESIDENT KORUTURK SAID WITH SOME ACERBITY THAT HE WANTED  
TO ANNOUNCE TO TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION AND TO THE WORLD THAT AMERICAN  
AID IS NOT A ONE-SIDED FAVOR OR CHARITY AND THAT THE TURKISH-US  
AID RELATIONSHIP IS ONE OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AND MUTUAL BENEFITS-  
CUTTING OFF AID HURTS BOTH PARTNERS EQUALLY. HE SAID HE WAS NOT  
HAPPY WITH PRESSURE FROM "CERTAIN GROUPS" IN THE U.S., BUT GREATLY  
APPRECIATED THE GOOD EFFORTS OF PRESIDENT FORD AND OTHER US  
LEADERS. HE ADDED THAT, DESPITE THIS PROBLEM, TURKEY WILL REMAIN  
IN ITS PRESENT COLLECTIVE ALLIANCE.

(B) TURKEY'S INTERNAL ECONOMIC SITUATION.

(C) THE NEED TO AGREE ON A BUDGET AND CONTINUE GENERAL GOVERN-  
MENTAL EFFECTIVENESS.

(D) THE POSSIBILITY THAT A MORE EFFECTIVE ELECTORAL SYSTEM MIGHT  
BE DEVELOPED.

3. THE PRESIDENT CONCLUDED HIS SPEECH BY REGRETTING THAT THESE  
REASONS HAD NOT PERSUADED THE PARTIES TO JOIN IN NATIONAL UNITY  
GOVERNMENT. HE WAS, AS A RESULT, TURNING BACK TO THE LEADER  
OF THE LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY, BULENT ECEVIT.

4. WHEN ECEVIT LATER LEFT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE AND STATED HE HAD  
ACCEPTED THIS COMMISSION, HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE TASK WOULD BE  
A DIFFICULT ONE. HE ASKED THE OTHER PARTIES TO SHARE IN THE  
RESPONSIBILITY OF SUPPORTING A NEW GOVERNMENT AND OF RECONSIDERING  
EARLIER VIEWS THEY HAD ANNOUNCED. HE MADE NO MENTION OF ESTABLISH-  
MENT OF A MINORITY GOVERNMENT.

5. COMMENT: (A) PRESIDENT KORUTURK EMPHASIZED EFFORTS HE HAD MADE  
IN AN ATTEMPT TO FORM A NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT (THIS IS  
CONSISTENT WITH POSITION HE TOOK DURING 100 DAYS' CRISIS EARLIER  
THIS YEAR); (B) FOR THE FIRST TIME HE PUBLICLY MENTIONED QUESTION  
OF US MILITARY AID IN CONNECTION WITH LOCAL POLITICAL SITUATION  
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(THIS ISSUE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN DOWNPLAYED IN PUBLIC DISCUSSION);  
(C) IN ACCEPTING TASK OF FORMING NEW GOVERNMENT, ECEVIT  
UNDOUBTEDLY LEFT DOOR OPEN TO FURTHER EFFORT TO FORM COALITION,  
POSSIBLY OF BROAD PROPORTIONS; (D) KORUTURK'S STRONG PITCH FOR  
CHANGE IN TURKISH ELECTORAL SYSTEM ADDS HIS OWN PRESTIGIOUS  
WEIGHT TO GROWING COMMENT HERE THAT NEW LOOK SHOULD BE TAKEN AT  
ELECTORAL SYSTEM WHICH NOW SEEMS CALCULATED TO PRODUCE WEAK  
GOVERNMENTS.

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